

1 ELECTRONIC CONTENTS PROVING METHOD AND SYSTEM, AND  
2 STORAGE MEDIUM FOR STORING PROGRAM THEREFOR

3 Abstract

4 The fact that electronic content on a network has been  
5 opened for perusal by the public is proven, and the  
6 probative force required to demonstrate the openness or  
7 the lack of alteration of electronic content can be  
8 increased. Upon the receipt of a service request from a  
9 user who desires to prove that electronic content has  
10 been opened for perusal by the public, a service provider  
11 preferably selects, from a registered member group,  
12 multiple witnesses or certificate generators, and issues  
13 certificate generation requests to the selected witnesses  
14 or certificate generators. Electronic signatures of the  
15 witnesses or the certificate generators are provided for  
16 the certificates, to each of which the service provider  
17 adds his or her electronic signature, and the  
18 certificates are transmitted to the user.